

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0052] Thus, seen from the bottom, the front end zone of the rear half-sole is located above and covers the rear end zone of the front half-sole. As seen from the top, or as considered with the sole supported upon a horizontal surface, the front end zone of the rear sole extends beneath and covers the rear end zone of the front half-sole.

[0071] In the preferred embodiment of the sole shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the front half-sole 3 at least partially encloses the front of the reinforcement 2, such that the constituent material of the front half-sole 3 is present beneath and above the reinforcement 2. On the other hand, the rear half-sole 4 does not, or virtually does ~~not~~ not, overlap above the rear of the reinforcement 2 as seen from the bottom, thereby leaving at least a substantial portion of the reinforcement 2 exposed, as seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, at the bottom of the sole.

[0077] In practice, it is naturally the lower surface of the sole 1, or more precisely of the front 3 and/or rear 4 half-sole that has a form and means provided to cooperate with a sports apparatus, for example a cross-country ski. Thus, the half-sole or half-soles 3, 4 themselves can be constituted by at least one piece 8, 9₃, 9₄, 13 for guiding and/or for connecting to a sports apparatus. ~~In addition to guiding the sole and boot, inasmuch as the elements 8, and optional wear pads 8a, support the boot on the ground and on the sports apparatus, when connected thereto, the elements 8 (and pads 8a, if utilized) can be regarded more generally as tread members.~~